Research Project Title: Ensuring Active Involvement and Participation of PwDs in Governance and Democratic Processes in Uganda

Location: Iganga, Uganda

Research Topic: Governance, Human Rights

Partner Organization: Foundation for Sustainable Development and Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA)

Description of FSD: Foundation for Sustainable Development is an international development organization that seeks to support communities in achieving their goals through asset-based development and international exchange in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. FSD provides opportunities for students and professionals to engage in real community development work—instead of a typical study abroad or drop-in service project program. FSD works in six countries and for more than two decades has supported more than 250 community partner organizations and trained more than 3,000 volunteers. Its community development efforts have maintained an ongoing project sustainability rate of nearly 80 percent, addressing health, social, environmental, and economic issues by responding to community priorities and offering training, grants, and volunteer support to community partners.

Description of Community Partner: Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA) was established in 2000 by a group of women with physical, sensory, psychosocial, and intellectual disabilities. Together they work with parents of children with disabilities from the Busoga sub-region. In 2015, IDIWA expanded to include services to other vulnerable populations including the elderly, children, youth, and women with HIV/AIDS. IDIWA has a total of 769 members from the 21 member groups of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) in Iganga, Mayuge and Luuka Districts.

IDIWA Programs include:
- Human Rights Advocacy and Governance
- Economic Empowerment & Livelihood
- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
- Health and Reproductive Health Rights
- Education

Social Issue
IDIWA focus on creating an environment where the holistic rights of PwDs are respected and implemented by the government, communities, partners, and the general public. Democratic and governance rights for people with disabilities are still not well implemented by the government as many people with disabilities do not actively participate in democratic and governance activities across many communities in Uganda. Accessibility to polling stations and electoral relevant information for PwDs is still lacking hindering many PwDs to freely exercise their right to vote.
Impact of Project on the community (Community Engagement)
The project will be able to effectively advocate for the democratic and governance rights of people with disabilities

Research Project Description
In a bid to strengthen advocacy for the rights of PwDs, IDIWA has worked with the local government and various partners to promote better participation and involvement of PwDs in democratic and governance within their communities, at district and national levels. In this regard the research will focus on identifying effective systems for facilitating active involvement and participation of PwDs in governance and democratic processes. The researcher will work to understand and identify the problems from community to national level which are affecting active participation and involvement of PwDs in democratic and governance processes and identify best practices or methods which can effectively be utilized or embraced and implemented to achieve active participation of PwDs in democratic and governance processes.

Research Methodology
The research will use both qualitative and quantitative methods. Primary and secondary data will be collected at community, district and national levels. Data collection method will include but not limited to the following:

- Interviews (KII and FGDs)
- Questionnaires applied at household level
- Literature reviews
- Data analysis tools will include SPSS, EpiData, MS excel or any other data analysis tools familiar with the researcher

Student Profile
The student must have a very good knowledge and use of research methodologies and analysis. The student should be from the academic field of governance, political science, international relations and have a good understanding of disability issues.